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# CD / YM 690 DISCIPLES HIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRAIL CAMPING

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**2005 PROSPECTUS:**  
**CD/YM690 DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRAIL CAMPING**

Asbury Theological Seminary  
Adjunct Instructor: Steve Venable

**DESCRIPTION:** Backpacking experience with parish-based youth living and working in trail families in a backpacking trip. Course requires completing Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and first aid certification, readings, and reflection response papers. Students can return in planning/leadership role by taking CD695 for another trip. Additional fee required for First Aid/CPR training and to cover costs of food, fees and other expenses for the trip.

**PREREQUISITES:** CD610 or CD615

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Be able to design and implement effective camping experiences for church or agency-based ministry with effectiveness in planning, budgeting, and executing the trip including skill development in:
  - Spiritual growth through wilderness ministry
  - Wilderness respect and safety
  - Trail navigation
  - Group process in wilderness settings
  - Basics of backpacking equipment
  - Food planning and preparation
  - First aid applications
2. Develop a deep appreciation for the revelation of God through creation and grow an initial understanding of self as co-revelator with God.
3. Faithfully exegete teenagers and their culture for the purpose of reaching them for Christ in their own context.
4. Deepen an awareness of the developmental processes at work in adolescents and how intentional relationship building can create the context for spiritual maturation
5. Understand and embrace the power of rites of passage to encourage the initiation of adulthood and be able to utilize them in the context of ministry settings.
6. Broaden their knowledge of resources available for conducting effective recreation ministries.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*Hiking and Backpacking: A Complete Guide. New Edition* by Karen Berger – a reference guide to remind you of crucial info while on the trail

*AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership* by Alex Koseff – handbook on developing leadership skills for outdoor activities

*Empower Your Kids to be Adults* by Donald Joy – a reflection on the need for and how to's of rites of passage

*Windows of the Soul* by Ken Gire – a herald for hearing God in new ways

**OTHER REQUIRED READING:**

Reading packet from bookstore.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Papers for this class consist of responses to the required texts, a summary paper integrating knowledge of the four selected articles, and an evaluative personal reflection paper after the week in the wilderness. Following are guidelines for each of these assignments and their weight for the course grade.

1. (10 points) From your reading of HIKING AND BACKPACKING prepare at least a three to four page ready reference instructional guide that details important information that you may need to know while spending this week in the gorge. I'm open to whatever format you choose for writing this paper. One possibility is for you to create a training guide for an adult sponsor, who had never before been on a camping trip, but wanted to feel equipped for whatever situation might be encountered while in the wilderness with a group of teens. Make the paper useful to you.
2. (10 points) In your reading of AMC GUIDE TO OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP consider what ministry positions you currently occupy or hope to occupy after graduation. Write a two to three page proposal that projects how you could utilize camping experiences in the spiritual formation of people in your sphere of ministry. This could entail such things as using camping as part of a confirmation curriculum, as a rite of passage, as part of a family-based ministry, or simply as a personal retreat for you and friends or family.
3. (10 points) EMPOWER YOUR KIDS TO BE ADULTS is filled with important and far-reaching concepts that touch everything from unpacking your own family history, to mentoring youth, to creating communities of faith that give adult responsibility to youth rather than perpetuate adolescence. In this paper spend at least one page responding to the book on each of the following levels:
  - Name specific ideas, concepts, or events that "leapt out" at you and articulate why you believe this impacted you.
  - Report how this material connected with you personally, what life events came to focus for you in reading the material, and/or any emotional responses you had to the text.

- Project how this material will be useful to you in the future. What decisions/commitments do you need to make personally or in ministry because of having read this material?
- 4. (10 points) WINDOWS OF THE SOUL is intended to be a text to nurture your spiritual life, enhance your appreciation of being in creation, and touch a different part of you than is often focused on in seminary education. I anticipate this text moving you and am interested in having you respond freely to how the Holy Spirit may use it in your life. If you like to journal and it provokes a desire to write then do so; if it stimulates sermon ideas or illustrations, report on how you used the material in preaching or teaching; if it recalls certain memories or renews some dimension of your spiritual life, make a personal response; if it inspires you to share part of it with a significant person, write about that experience or copy the letters or e-mails you created; if there were just certain passages you loved, recount them and indicate why they meant something to you.
- 5. (10 points) In a single two to three page paper integrate the articles you read from the reading packet (excluding developmental articles by Joy and Kohlberg). Indicate what interested you about these articles, what you found helpful from reading them, what future questions they raised that you might want to pursue, or what new possibilities for ministry were suggested.
- 6. (10 points) Offer a personal response to the developmental readings (Joy and Kohlberg), integrating your present theological/moral developmental trajectory: Where have you been? Where are you now? Where are you going? How do you minister from who you are? **This paper is due the first day of class (Monday July 18) – see below.**
- 7. (40 points) The remainder of your grade comes from your participation in the pre-trip planning and the trail camp itself – helping with preparation, interacting with the youth, fulfilling your role in the evening worship times, and evaluating the entire experience. For a final paper write several pages on what this experience meant to you and any suggestions you would have for improving future trail camps. You may wish to focus on a particular event that occurred on the trip, a relationship that became important, a new direction in your sense of calling, or how this experience fits in the whole of your seminary experience. Evaluate your own participation throughout the course and suggest a final grade for yourself.

#### **OTHER PRE-TRIP RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Students will communicate with each other and instructor on a regular basis, usually via email, prior to the trip to finalize pre-trip plans. Communicate your best email contact address with instructor. Include dates you will be unavailable.
2. Students will be divided into working groups as needed, i. e., curriculum, food, gear preparation, trail selection.
3. All students will work collaboratively to develop and/or refine appropriate curriculum. The curriculum working group will moderate curriculum discussion and prepare the final written curriculum.
4. The food group will prepare an appropriate menu; provide a written menu, recipes and food preparation details to be included in the curriculum; purchase food.

5. The trail selection group will select the trails and provide written daily trail descriptions to be included in the curriculum.
6. If your schedule does not allow you to participate in these pre-trip responsibilities, please do not register for this course this summer.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**July 18-22** pre-trip planning sessions held in bookstore basement conference room.

- Monday July 18 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Initial meeting for prayer, purpose, overview, question and answers. Begin work on moral/human development. Evening session with Paul Southgate. **Paper 6 (see above) due at 9:00 am today.**
- Tuesday July 19 9:00 am – noon. Prayer and planning. 1:00 – 5:00 pm (as needed) meeting in working groups.
- Wednesday July 20 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. On campus First Aid/CPR training. All seminary students must be certified in both areas. Contact Steve Venable if you carry a current certification in one or both areas. You can get certification elsewhere if necessary or helpful. Working groups can meet with Steve in evening as needed.
- Thursday July 21 9:00 am – noon. Group meeting to pray, assess current state of trip and distribute final responsibilities. 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Sessions as needed, either as a whole or in working groups.
- Friday July 22 9:00 am – noon. Final classroom session followed by loading of trailer. Leave for Red River Gorge around 1:00 pm. **Papers 1-5 (under Assignments above) due at 9:00 am today.**

**July 22-24** pre-trip planning continues in Red River Gorge.

- Friday July 22 afternoon. Set up camp at Koomer Ridge Campground. (Showers available.)
- Saturday July 23 all day. Identify potentially difficult trail situations; go over map-reading and trail skills; swimming at Jump Rock on Red River.
- Sunday July 24 morning worship. Meet high school backpackers in the afternoon and get started on trail.

**July 24-29** trail camping with area high school youth.

**July 29** return to campus after morning backpacker pick-up for celebration, pizza, de-briefing and equipment clean-up.

**August 19** final integrative paper due (see no 7 above under Assignments). Mail or email to Steve Venable, contact information below.

Backpacking fee for seminarians is \$70 which will be collected before the trip. Also, pray about high school youth you know you can invite to participate on the trip. Cost for youth is \$140 (\$160 after July 1). The Student Center and Wilmore UMC rent equipment but may entail additional costs. Let me know if you have equipment needs. I will be in touch periodically during the summer to get students in working in teams for making additional preparations. Contact me at [steve@cetacanyon.org](mailto:steve@cetacanyon.org), 800-593-1992 (camp) or 806-655-8344 (home) if you have questions or run into difficulties.

## Reading Packet

### Rites of Passage:

- Andrews, Ken. "The Wilderness Expedition as a Rite of Passage: Meaning and Process in Experiential Education." *Journal of Experiential Education* 22, no. 1, (1999): 35-43.
- Venable, Stephen F. "Adolescent Rites of Passage: An Experiential Model." *Journal of Experiential Education* 20, no. 1 (1997): 6-13.
- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. "Ritual Process and Christian Discipling: Contextualizing a Buddhist Rite of Passage." *Missiology* 19, no. 1 (1991): 3-19.

### Theological Reflection:

- Hansel, Tim. "Holy Sweat: The Training of Servant Leaders Through the Wilderness Experience." *Journal of Christian Camping* (May-June 1982): 10-12.
- Smith, Daryl L. "Trailcamping--A Microcosm of Community." *Christian Education Journal* 10, no. 1 (1989): 51-62.
- Venable, Steve. "Tending the Shepherd: Spiritual Growth Through Wilderness Leadership." *Zip Lines* no. 38, (Winter 1999): 39-42.

### Moral Development:

- Joy, Donald M. "Life as Pilgrimage," 13-36. In *Moral Development Foundations: Judeo-Christian Alternatives to Piaget/Kohlberg*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1983.
- "Kohlberg Re-Visited: A Supra-Naturalist Speaks His Mind," 37-62. In *Moral Development Foundations: Judeo-Christian Alternatives to Piaget/Kohlberg*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1983.
- "Toward Christian Holiness: John Wesley's Faith Pilgrimage," 207-232. In *Moral Development Foundations: Judeo-Christian Alternatives to Piaget/Kohlberg*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1983.
- Kohlberg, Lawrence. "From Is to Ought: How to Commit the Naturalistic Fallacy and Get Away with It in the Study of Moral Development." In T. Mischel, ed., *Cognitive Development and Epistemology*. New York: Academic Press, 1971.

### Wilderness Ethics:

- Berry, Wendell. "Preserving Wildness." *Wilderness* (Spring 1987): 38-54.
- Marshall, Robert. "The Problem of the Wilderness." *Scientific Monthly* (February 1930): 141-148.
- Stegner, Wallace. "Wilderness Letter," 436-441. In *Late Harvest*. David R. Pichaske, ed. New York: Paragon House, 1992.

### Kentucky Flavor:

- Berry, Wendell. "An Entrance to the Woods," pp. 31-45 in *The Unforeseen Wilderness: Kentucky's Red River Gorge*. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1991.

## Additional Recommended Resources

### Backpacking:

- Curtis, Rick. *The Backpacker's Field Manual: A Comprehensive Guide to Mastering Backcountry Skills*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 1998.
- Fletcher, Colin and Chip Rawlins. *The Complete Walker IV*. New York: Knopf, 2002.
- Hampton, Bruce and David Cole. *Soft Paths: How to Enjoy the Wilderness Without Harming It*. Revised and Updated. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole/NOLS, 1995.
- Harvey, Mark. *The National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide: The Classic Handbook*. New York: Fireside, 1999.
- McGivney, Annette. *Leave No Trace: A Guide to the New Wilderness Etiquette*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers/Backpacker, 1998.
- Weiss, M.D., Eric A. *Wilderness 911: A Step-by-Step Guide for Medical Emergencies and Improved Care in the Backcountry*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers/Backpacker, 1998.

### Kentucky Flavor:

- Berry, Wendell. *The Unforeseen Wilderness: Kentucky's Red River Gorge*. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1991.
- Bluegrass Group Sierra Club. *Hiking the Red: A Complete Trail Guide to Kentucky's Red River Gorge*. Louisville, KY: Harmony House Publishers, 2000.
- Brown, Michael H. *Hiking Kentucky*. Helena, MT: Falcon Publishing Co., 2002.
- Daniel Boone National Forest, <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/boone/rrg.htm>
- Elliott, Brook and Barbara Elliott. *Hiking Kentucky*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 1998.
- Eslinger, Ellen, ed. *Running Mad for Kentucky: Frontier Travel Accounts*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2004.
- High, Ellesa Clay. *Past Titan Rock: Journeys into an Appalachian Valley*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1984.
- Kentucky Trails, <http://www.kentuckytrails.com>
- Kentucky Wilderness, <http://www.kywilderness.com>
- Lane, John. "The Once-Again Wilderness," pp. 17-23 in *Waist Deep in Black Water*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2002.
- Molloy, Johnny. *Day and Overnight Hikes: Kentucky's Sheltowee Trace*. Birmingham, AL: Menasha Ridge Press, 2004.
- Rogers, Hiram. *50 Hikes in Kentucky: From the Appalachian Mountains to the Land Between the Lake*. Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 2002.
- Ruchhoft, R. H. *Kentucky's Land of the Arches -- The Red River Gorge*. New Revised and Enlarged Edition. Cincinnati, OH: Pucelle Press, 1986.
- Sheltowee Trace, <http://www.sheltoweetrace.com>

### Moral Development:

- Gurian, Michael. *A Fine Young Man: What Parents, Mentors, and Educators Can Do to Shape Adolescent Boys into Exceptional Men*. New York, NY: Tarcher. 1999.
- Kegan, Robert. *The Evolving Self: Problem and Process in Human Development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1982.

### **Leadership/Wilderness Writings:**

- Austin, Richard Cartwright. *Baptized into Wilderness: A Christian Perspective on John Muir*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1987.
- Brame, Susan Chadwick & Chad Henderson. *An Introduction to Wildland Ethics & Management*. Lander WY: National Outdoor Leadership School, 1992.
- Graham, John. *Outdoor Leadership: Technique, Common Sense & Self-Confidence*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers, 1997.
- Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There*. New York. Oxford University Press, 1949
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1989.
- Teale, Edwin Way, ed. *The Wilderness World of John Muir*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1954.
- Thoreau, Henry David. *The Maine Woods*. New York: Penguin Books Edition, 1988.
- Zahniser, Ed, editor. *Where Wilderness Preservation Began: Adirondack Writings of Howard Zahniser*. Utica, New York: North Country Books, 1992.

### **Community/Spiritual Growth:**

- Bratton, Susan Power. *Christianity, Wilderness, and Wildlife: The Original Desert Solitaire*. Scranton, PA: University of Scranton Press, 1993.
- Douglas, David. *Wilderness Sojourn: Notes in the Desert Silence*. San Francisco: Harper, 1987.
- Klopfenstein, David and Dottie and Bud Williams. *Come Ye Apart: Christian Leadership in the Temporary Community*. Wheaton, IL: Holysm Publishing, 1999.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry*. New York: Seabury Press, 1981.
- Slater, Tom. *The Temporary Community: Organized Camping for Urban Society*. Sutherland NWS, Australia: Albatross Books, 1984.
- Willis, Scott Cabot. *Wilderness Therapy: The Search for Healing, Health, and Wholeness in the Wilderness*. Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1989. (UMI reprint 1-800-521-0600)

### **Rites of Passage:**

- Bell, Brent. "The Rites of Passage and Outdoor Education: Critical Concerns for Effective Programming." *Journal of Experiential Education* 26, no. 1, (2003): 41-50.
- Hill, Jr., Paul. *Coming of Age: African American Male Rites-of-Passage*. Chicago: African American Images, 1992.
- Persons, David Nelson. *Teach Them Unto Your Children: Contextualization of Basanga Puberty Rites in the United Methodist Church*. Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1990. (UMI reprint 1-800-521-0600)
- Venable, Stephen Fletcher. *Mountain Cathedrals: An Exploratory Study of Spiritual Growth in Teenagers Through Backpacking*. D.Min. diss., Asbury Theological Seminary, 1995. (UMI reprint 1-800-521-0600)
- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. *Symbol and Ceremony: Making Disciples Across Cultures*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1997.